GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:353
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any fresh plan of action to combat trafficking and commercial sex exploitation of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard, State- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government constituted a Committee on Prostitution, ChildProstitutes and Children of Prostitutes on 21st August, 1997. The Committee made an in-depth study of the problems of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children and of children of women victims and presented a report and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children in 1998. The action points emphasized in the Plan are: (a) Prevention (b) Trafficking (c) Awareness Generation and Social Mobilisation (d) Health Care Services (e)Education and Child Care (f) Housing Shelter and Civic Amenities(g) Economic Empowerment (h) Legal Reforms and LawEnforcement (i) Rescue and Rehabilitation (j) Institutional Machinery (k) Methodology. The Plan of Action has been forwarded to the State Governments and Union Territories for implementation.

(c) The State Governments/Union Territories have taken/are taking the following measures to combat trafficking in women and children:-

(i) Setting up of State Advisory Committees to make suggestions for measures to be taken in eradicating prostitution and taking up social welfare programmes for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of rescued victims.

(ii) Notifying Special Police Officers in the high supply areas under Section 13(1) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

(iii) Notifying non-official Advisory Boards under Section 13(3) of ITPA to advise the Special Police Officers on focus areas.

(iv) Conduct of regular raids in the identified high supply areas.

(v) Implementation of projects for the rescue and rehabilitation of women and child victims in collaboration with State Government agencies/NGOs.

(vi) Setting up of Juvenile Homes/Special Homes underthe Juvenile Justice Act with facilities of counseling, vocational training and health care for children affected by commercial sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS.

(vii) Implementation of schemes for social upliftment and economic rehabilitation of Devdasis/Jogins, etc.

To provide shelter to women and girls who are exposed to moral danger or are victims of family discord or emotional disturbances and to assist the victims of prostitution, a scheme of Short Stay Home is being implemented by the Government in all the States and Union Territories. At present there are 250 Short Stay Homes which can accommodate 30 inmates per Home.